

DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH 3823 S. INDIANA AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60653 BISHOP HORACE E. SMITH, M.D., PASTOR SIS. SUSAN D. SMITH, FIRST LADY

Praise the Lord Everyone

Sis Smith and I are excited, and filled with great joy, knowing that you have chosen to join us during Solemn Assembly in 2025.

Solemn Assembly is our annual time of refocusing and reconnecting to God, positioning ourselves to hear from Him, and discovering His Will for us as a congregation.

This devotional is designed to aid you as you join us in this holy endeavor. Our theme and focus for this time is **Living Life in Him.**

It flows from our FaithWorks 2024 theme of "Lord of All," and evolves of the concluding phrase of our Mission Statement.....So That CHRIST BECOMES PRE-EMMINENT in every life.

This time will encompass the month of January (and further if the Lord says the same). It is a time of corporately seeking Him in prayer, fasting, scriptural reading, and reflecting. It is a time of study, worship, and repenting. It is a time that we surrender to Him, fully expecting our lives to be changed and transformed individually and collectively.

Please utilize the resources provided on our website to guide you regarding our scheduled times of coming together and our corporate commitments to fasting, prayer, and connecting as a community.

It is my prayer that this Solemn Assembly will impact us like no other. As we open our hearts and minds to the Lord unreservedly, we will experience the Move and Presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit, which will shape our lives forever and empower us to accomplish His Will and Plan for us.

Please share the details of our gatherings, the contents of this devotional, and personal commitment with everyone you can. In this day of isolation and individualism, connecting with and building the faith and experience of others is a critical component of our journey to spiritual maturity and unity.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give peace. In Jesus name.

Bishop Horace E. Smith M.D. Apostolic Faith Church

A Declaration of Christ at the Center and Prayer Points for Season 1: Solemn Assembly

We boldly declare that Jesus is the center of our lives—our hope in times of uncertainty, our source of unshakable joy, and our faithful provider in every need. Lord, we thank You for the work You have done in our hearts, transforming it to desire what pleases You. Thank You for aligning our life with Your perfect will - a will that reveals Your plan, purpose, and desire for us, rooted in Your love and faithfulness.

Father, we ask that You empower us daily by the Holy Spirit to walk fully in Your grace. Help us to live with integrity and faith, reflecting Your love, compassion, and truth in everything we do. Let our words and actions be proof of Your goodness, drawing others closer to You. We surrender our worries and fears to You, trusting that Your ways are higher than ours and that Your timing is perfect. When challenges arise, remind us that Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in our weakness. Strengthen us to stand firm in our faith, even when the world seeks to distract or discourage us.

Guide our steps so we remain anchored in Your Word, faithful in prayer, and steadfast in trust. May our lives glorify You in all things, fulfilling the divine purpose You have set before us. We commit to living not for ourselves, but for Your glory, as we lean on Your strength and walk in the power of Your Spirit.

In Jesus' name, we declare this truth and surrender our lives to You. Amen.

JANUARY 5 - 11, 2025

Week 1: Jesus Before Creation

During week 1 of 4, our focus is on Jesus Before Creation. Before the world began, Jesus was already at the center of God's plan. He wasn't a backup plan or a reaction to sin. He was always the plan. Everything was made through Him, and in Him, we find our purpose. This week's devotion will help us:

1. See Jesus as God's Plan from the Beginning

We'll learn how Jesus was chosen before creation and how everything God planned centers on Him. This can help us trust God's plan for our lives more fully.

2. Understand Our Purpose in Christ

We'll discover that just like Jesus, we were chosen as part of God's plan. Knowing this can help us live with confidence and make choices that honor Him.

As we start this journey, let's take time to think about what it means that Jesus was chosen for us and that we were chosen in Him. By the end of this week, we'll better understand how God's plan for Jesus gives our lives purpose and meaning. Let's walk through this week together, ready to grow in our faith and in our connection to Jesus.

Day 1: Chosen Early; Revealed Later

"He is the exact image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation, the eternal. 16 It was by Him that everything was created: the heavens, the earth, all things within and upon them, all things seen and unseen, thrones and dominions, spiritual powers and authorities. 18 He is the head of this body, the church. He is the beginning, the first of those to be reborn from the dead, so that in every aspect, at every view, in everything—He is first. — Colossians 1:15-16a, 18 (The Voice)

In today's scripture, the Apostle Paul declares that Jesus was not only the Creator of all things but also the One through whom God's eternal plan was accomplished. Jesus was chosen before the foundation of the world, not as a reaction to sin but as the central figure of God's eternal purpose. All creation exists through Him and for Him, and in Him, we are also chosen to share in God's divine plan.

This truth emphasizes that God's timing is never reactionary. He does not respond to events in haste or uncertainty but orchestrates His plans with precision and purpose. Long before the world began, God chose Jesus to be the Redeemer and chose us to find our identity and purpose in Him. At the perfect time, Jesus was revealed to fulfill this plan "for our sake" (1 Peter 1:20) NIV, demonstrating God's unfailing love and wisdom.

God's timing may challenge our understanding, as we often desire immediate answers or results. Yet, His plans are always intentional and perfectly timed. Imagine if Jesus had been revealed too early—before the world was ready to receive Him. Even those called to follow Him, like Peter, might not have embraced their roles in God's plan.

Let this truth encourage you today: you are chosen in Christ, and God's work in your life is unfolding according to His perfect timing. Trust Him, worship Him for His eternal wisdom, and live with confidence that His plans for you are as intentional and purposeful as His plan for Jesus' revelation to the world.

- 1. Consider how God's timing has been evident in your life. How does knowing His plans are intentional, not reactionary, give you peace about current uncertainties?
- 2. What steps of faith can you take today while trusting His perfect wisdom?

salvation, purchased by the blood of Christ. We recognize that we are redeemed not with perishable things, but by the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb without blemish or spot. Thank You for Your love, grace, and mercy, which sustain us each day. Help us to approach You with awe and reverence, living with a heart of gratitude. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us to live a life of holiness, free from sin, that reflects Your goodness and glorifies Your name in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2: Holy and Blameless

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; —1 Peter 2:9

What is my purpose in life? This question permeates our thoughts and actions. Some seek answers through relationships, striving to be the best parents, siblings, or partners. Others chase career success, hoping prestigious or altruistic jobs will bring fulfillment. But Peter provides a simple, profound answer: We were chosen before the world's creation to be holy and blameless.

Though we often fall short of this purpose—a reality God is fully aware of—it remains central to our lives. Without pursuing this purpose, all other attempts at fulfillment fall flat. Thankfully, through Jesus' example, the Holy Spirit, and God's Word, we have everything we need to pursue holiness and blamelessness.

This leaves us with two questions: (1) Are we willing to accept our God-given purpose? (2) Will we use the tools He provides to fulfill it?

Prayer Point: Father God, in the name of Jesus, we thank You for choosing us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in Your sight. Your love and grace are

- 1. What does it mean to be holy and blameless?
- 2. Reflect on examples of holiness in your life or the lives of biblical figures.
- 3. Are there areas in your life tainted by sin or carnality?
- 4. What steps can you take today to move toward holiness?

beyond measure, and we are humbled by the privilege to be called Your own. Help us to ive in a way that reflects Your holiness and to walk in the purpose You have set for us. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us to honor You in all things, growing in grace and truth as we strive to live a life worthy of the calling You have placed on us. In Jesus' name, Amen.	

Day 3: Christ, the Sacrificial Vessel

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake."

—1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT)

Bishop Smith often reminds us that "we have been bought with a price," a truth Peter emphasizes to the early church. God's infinite wisdom and love are demonstrated through Jesus, the sacrificial vessel chosen to redeem us. Before the world began, God's plan was set in motion, and Jesus was the centerpiece of that plan, our Redeemer and ransom.

Earthly wealth or human efforts could never atone for sin, yet God provided a perfect way for us to become His children through Christ. His shed blood, the ultimate sacrifice, paid the price we could never afford. Throughout the Old Testament, glimpses of Jesus foreshadowed His role as the sacrificial vessel prepared and chosen to bear the weight of our sins.

For our sake, He was revealed in the flesh as the spotless Lamb, chosen to take our place and restore us to God. Let us reflect on the depth of His sacrifice and thank Him for being the vessel through which we are redeemed and made whole.

As Peter reminds us of our rescue from emptiness, let us thank the Lord for the blood that paid it all.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. What practical steps can you take to live a life that honors Christ's sacrifice?
- 2. Are there areas in your life still tied to empty or unfulfilling pursuits?
- 3. Reflect on how you can realign those areas with God's purpose.

Prayer Point: Heavenly Father, we come before You in awe and gratitude for the incredible price You paid for our salvation. Thank You for sending Jesus, Your perfect and spotless Lamb, to be our Redeemer. We are humbled by the depth of Your love, that You would sacrifice Your only Son to rescue us from sin and emptiness. I recognize that without You, our life would be devoid of meaning and purpose, but through Christ's sacrifice, we have been given new life. Thank You for the gift of salvation, and for the blood that paid it all. Help us to live with a heart full of gratitude, always mindful of the great cost of our redemption. May we honor You in all we do, reflecting Your love and grace to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: Chosen by God

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without "or you are a holy people [set apart] to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be a people for His own possession [that is, His very special treasure]" —Deuteronomy 7:6 (AMP)

Identity and belonging are core struggles for many people. Questions like "Who am I?" and "Do I matter?" often surface in times of uncertainty or insecurity. Thankfully, the Deuteronomy offers us a life-changing truth—God chose us.

Before the foundation of the world, God's love for us was already established. He not only thought about us but intentionally chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault. What an incredible affirmation of our worth! Through Jesus, we are not only chosen but also purified, allowing us to stand blameless before God (Jude 1:24).

This truth provides unshakable assurance when doubts creep in about our value or purpose. God's decision to choose us wasn't random or conditional—it was rooted in His eternal love and divine plan. Yet, being chosen also comes with a call to action. We are called to live holy lives, reflecting God's love and character to the world.

Will you invite the Holy Spirit today to guide your steps as you seek to honor God?

Journal Prompts:

- 1. What does it mean to you to be "chosen in Christ"?
- 2. How does this verse inspire you to show love and grace to others?
- 3. What practical ways can you remind yourself daily that God chose and loves you?

Prayer Point: Father God, thank You for choosing us before the foundation of the world. Through Christ's sacrifice, You have made us holy and blameless in Your sight. We are

humbled by Your love and grace. Help us to live in a way that reflects Your holiness and fulfills the purpose You've set for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.		

Day 5: Blessed and Chosen

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love." —Ephesians 1:3–4 (NIV)

Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians with praise, celebrating God as the source of every spiritual blessing in Christ. He reminds us that God chose us before creation to be holy and blameless, reflecting His love and grace. This truth grounds our identity in Christ and calls us to live with purpose and gratitude.

Paul's example teaches us to approach God with thanksgiving, focusing first on His blessings before bringing our requests. Gratitude shifts our perspective, deepening our faith and aligning our hearts with God's will. It reminds us that His blessings are not earned but freely given through His love.

These blessings are not just for our benefit—they are meant to be shared. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others, reflecting His goodness in our words and actions. As we walk in faith, may we steward His gifts well, pointing others to the hope and grace we've received in Christ.

Journal Prompts:

1. In what ways can I use the blessings that God has given me to serve others, and glorify Him?

Prayer Point: Father, You are the giver of all good things. You have blessed us with abilities.

- 2. What are some ways that I can intentionally bless someone this week?
- 3. How can I partner with others to make a meaningful difference in someone's life?

sources, and opportunities to be a blessing to others. Open our hearts to recognize the needs ound us and give us the courage and wisdom to respond with compassion and action. May always be willing vessels, ready to share Your love and grace with those in need.	

Day 6: Living a Purpose-Filled Life

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. — Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV)

Jesus saved us to live a full and meaningful life, no longer bound by the empty patterns of existence passed down through generations. Redemption through Christ is not just freedom from sin; it is an invitation to walk in purpose and fulfillment.

Too often, we bury our potential, leaving gifts and talents unused—much like the unfulfilled dreams that remain in the grave. But through Christ, we are called to rise above a life of mediocrity and step into the divine purpose God has designed for us.

Have you sought God to reveal your purpose? And while you seek, are you preparing and working toward it? Waiting is not a passive act; it's a time for growth, learning, and faithfulness. Even as we wait on God, we can move forward in obedience, trusting that He will guide us in His perfect timing.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. Have you asked God to reveal your purpose?
- 2. What steps can you take today to prepare for the calling God has placed on your life?
- 3. Are there areas where you feel idle or uncertain? How can you trust God while actively seeking Him?

Prayer Point: Lord, help us not to be idle. We no longer want to live beneath the purpose You

created us for. Strengthen me to seek Your will and equip us to do the work You have called us to. In Jesus' name, Amen.			

Day 7: God's Redemption Plan

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. — 2 Timothy 1:9-10 (NIV)

Just as we make intentional plans for our children, finances, and health, God has crafted a plan for our redemption before the world began. From the very beginning, Scripture reveals God's purposeful design—Jesus was always coming, the Son of David, destined to save us.

God's plan is not haphazard; it is thoughtful, deliberate, and eternal. Likewise, we are called to approach our faith with intention. Living in Him requires us to plan for growth, discipline, and deeper connection to God's Word.

What steps can you take today to ensure you are walking in alignment with God's redemptive plan? How will you prioritize time in prayer, Scripture, and acts of faith?

Journal Prompts:

- 1. What does it mean to live a life "in Him"?
- 2. How can you incorporate intentional practices to grow spiritually and deepen your faith?

Prayer Point: Thank You, Father, for always thinking of us before the creation of this world. We ask You to guide me as we continue to grow in faith and purpose. Help us to hear Your

3. What are some areas where you need God's guidance to stay on track with His plan?

voice and follow Your leading. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 2: Jesus in and through creation

In week 2 of 4, our focus is on Jesus in and through creation. From the very beginning, Jesus has been at the center of everything, showing us who God is, holding the universe together, and reminding us of His power and authority. As we go through this week, we will see how Jesus, as the Creator and Sustainer, works in the world and in our lives, calling us to reflect His glory.

This week's devotion will help us:

1. Understand Jesus as the Creator and Sustainer

We'll learn that everything was made by Him, through Him, and for Him. This understanding will help us feel awe and gratitude, reminding us that our lives have purpose and were designed by Him.

2. Live as Reflections of His Glory

By thinking about how Jesus works in creation and in us, we'll be encouraged to live in a way that honors Him. Whether it's in our actions, words, or relationships, this week will help us put Jesus at the center of everything we do.

As we reflect on Jesus' role in creation, let's do this together, seeking Him as the One who made us, holds us together, and redeems us. By the end of this week, we'll see more clearly how Jesus works through us to bring glory to God. Let's commit to this journey as a group, living to show His greatness and love in everything we do.

JANUARY 12 - 18, 2025

Day 1: Christ, the Visible Image of the Invisible God

"For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, [things] visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [that is, by His activity] and for Him." Colossians 1:16 (AMP)

Jesus Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. Through Him, we encounter the fullness of God's character—His love, grace, mercy, and power. Jesus is not merely a teacher or moral guide; He is God incarnate, revealing the Father's glory.

Centralizing Jesus, the Image of God means allowing His preeminence to shape every part of our lives. As Creator, He holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). As Redeemer, He reconciles us to God (Colossians 1:20). When life feels unstable, we can rest in the truth that Jesus is unchanging and sovereign.

In a world that prioritizes temporary things, this scripture reminds us that Jesus is eternal and supreme over all creation. When we place Him at the center, everything else—our relationships, careers, and struggles—falls into its proper place.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. What does it mean to recognize Jesus as the image of the invisible God?
- 2. Are there areas in my life where I need to realign priorities and place Him at the center?

Prayar Point: Lard Jesus Vou are the image of the invisible God. Help us to center our lives on

3. How can I reflect His love and truth to those around me?

You and reflect Your glory. May our thoughts, actions, and words point others to You, the On who holds all things together. In Jesus' name, Amen.					

Day 2: The Eternal Word

"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself." John 1:1 (AMP)

Jesus, the Word, existed before time began. He is eternal, divine, and inseparable from God. Through Him, creation was spoken into existence. As the living Word, He embodies God's power, truth, and authority.

This scripture reminds us that Jesus is not a created being but God Himself. He has always been and will always be. Meditating on His eternal nature deepens our faith and helps us grasp the significance of His role in our lives.

Prayer Point: Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Yourself through Jesus, the eternal

- 1. What does it mean that Jesus is eternal and was with God in the beginning?
- 2. How does this truth influence my trust in Him?
- 3. How can I grow in awe and reverence for Christ as the Word of God?

Word. Open our hearts to receive the truth of Your Word. Transform our life as we meditate on its power. Let our faith deepen as we grow in understanding of who You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.			

Day 3: Jesus: The Anchor of Life

"He was in the beginning with God." John 1:2 (ESV)

Jesus is not only eternal but also Immanuel God with us. He existed before creation, emphasizing His divine authority and unity with God. As Creator and Sustainer, He holds the universe together and provides stability in our lives.

When we center our thoughts and actions on Jesus, we align ourselves with God's perfect will. Reflecting His love and grace allows us to be witnesses of His glory in a chaotic world.

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, You reveal the fullness of the Father's glory. I worship

- 1. How can I make Jesus the center of my thoughts and actions today?
- 2. Are there areas of my life I need to surrender to His authority?
- 3. How does recognizing Jesus' eternal nature deepen my trust in Him?

You as supreme, eternal, and unchanging. Open our eyes to see Your greatness and help us to reflect Your image in our words and actions. May we live each day bringing honor to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.	

Day 4: The Creator Revealed

"All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being." John 1:3 AMP

Jesus is not only the Creator but also the sustainer of all creation. Everything I see, experience, and cherish originates from Him. Recognizing Him as the source of all life fills my heart with gratitude and awe. I am reminded that my existence is intentional, crafted by His divine hand. This truth encourages me to lean into His presence daily, trusting Him as my provider and sustainer.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. How can I incorporate daily reminders to honor Jesus as the Creator in my routine?
- 2. Are there areas of my life where I need to surrender control and trust Him as the sustainer?

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, You are the Creator of all things. Teach us to acknowledge

and honor You as our source and sustainer. Help us to trust You more each day and to yield to Your authority over my life. May our actions reflect our faith in Your provision and purpose. Amen.	

Day 5: Jesus is the Fulfillment of God in the Flesh

"...and to make plain [to everyone] the plan of the mystery [regarding the uniting of believing Jews and Gentiles into one body] which [until now] was kept hidden through the ages in [the mind of] God who created all things." Ephesians 3:9 AMP

God's eternal plan of salvation, once hidden, is now revealed through Jesus Christ. It amazes me that I am part of His divine plan and purpose. Knowing this gives my life deeper meaning and compels me to share His love with others. I am reminded that God's plans are always purposeful, and nothing in my life is accidental. He has always intended for us to be one—united in His love and mission. As we embrace this unity, we are called to live out His purpose together, not in division, but as a reflection of His harmony and grace. Our lives, individually and collectively, are part of His greater design, a beautiful picture of reconciliation and togetherness in Christ.

Journal Prompts:

1. What are some ways we can reflect God's plan for unity in our relationships and community?

Prayer Point: Father, we thank you for revealing your plan of salvation through

2. How can we align with God's vision of unity in Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ. We are deeply grateful to know that nothing you do in our lives is by accident. Help us to see the deeper meaning You've woven into our journeys and empower us by your precious Holy Spirit to share Your love with others. Remind us that Your plan is one of unity, and guide us to live in peace with others, reflecting Your grace. May our lives, individually and collectively, be a living testimony of the reconciliation and togetherness found in Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 6: The Radiance of God's Glory

"The Son is the radiance and only expression of the glory of [our awesome] God [reflecting God's Shekinah glory, the Light-being, the brilliant light of the divine], and the exact representation and perfect imprint of His [Father's] essence, and upholding and maintaining and propelling all things [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful word [carrying the universe along to its predetermined goal]. When He [Himself and no other] had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] accomplished purification from sins and established our freedom from guilt, He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority]." Hebrews 1:3 (AMP)

Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature. He sustains the universe by His word, and He sustains my life with the same power. Reflecting on His Majesty reminds me of His authority, His completed work on the cross, and His role as my Redeemer. Knowing that Jesus upholds all things gives me peace and confidence to trust Him fully.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. How have I seen Jesus sustain me through difficult times?
- 2. In what ways can I reflect God's glory in my words, actions, and relationships?

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, You are the radiance of God's glory and the One who

sustains all things. Strengthen our faith to trust You in every season of life. May our life reflect Your light, love, and truth to others. Help us walk in obedience, relying on Your grace and power daily. Let our lives be pleasing to You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.		

Day 7: Living to Reflect His Glory

"Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they exist, and were created and brought into being." Revelation 4:11 (AMP)

All of creation exists to bring glory to Jesus. This profound truth calls me to worship Him with every part of my life. It challenges me to live in a way that reflects His worth and majesty. Worship isn't confined to music or church services; it is the way I live—my thoughts, actions, and choices. Reflecting on His worthiness encourages me to continuously seek ways to glorify Him, from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. What does it mean to me that Jesus is worthy of all glory and honor?
- 2. How can I actively live my life as an offering of worship to Him daily?

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You for creating us with purpose and sustaining us with Your love. Teach us to live each day as an offering of worship to You, reflecting Your goodness and greatness in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.			ach us to live		

Week 3: Jesus in the Old Testament

In week 3 of 4, our focus is on Jesus in the Old Testament. Throughout the 39 books of the Old Testament, Jesus is revealed through prophecies, symbols, and foreshadowing. Although His name isn't mentioned, His presence and purpose are woven into the stories and promises of scripture. From the sacrifice of the lamb in Exodus to the promise of a coming King in Isaiah, the Old Testament points us toward Jesus as Savior and Redeemer.

This week's devotion will help us:

1. Recognize Jesus Foreshadowed in Scripture

We'll explore how the Old Testament reveals Jesus through its prophecies, sacrifices, and promises, showing that He was always part of God's plan.

By seeing Jesus throughout the Old Testament, we'll gain a greater understanding of

God's sovereignty and faithfulness in bringing His promises to fulfillment.

Deepen Our Faith in God's P	'lan
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As we study this week, let's be diligent to see how God's Word consistently points to Jesus. By the end of the week, we'll better understand how the Old Testament reveals God's plan for salvation and how Jesus has always been central to His purpose. Let's journey together, growing in awe of God's Word and His perfect plan through Jesus.	
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JANUARY 19 - 25, 2025

Day 1: Jesus: Revealed through in the Old Testament

"You search and keep on searching and examining the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and yet it is those [very Scriptures] that testify about Me;"

John 5:39 (AMP)

Jesus teaches that the Scriptures point directly to Him as the source of eternal life. The Old Testament contains prophetic glimpses of the coming Messiah, which find their fulfillment in Him. This verse challenges me to approach the Bible not just as a book of rules, but as a testimony of the person and work of Jesus. His life, death, and resurrection are the key to understanding all Scripture.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. How does this verse encourage me to approach Scripture with a focus on seeing Jesus?
- 2. What passages or stories in the Old Testament have deepened my understanding of Jesus and His redemptive work?

Prayer Point: Lord, thank You for revealing Yourself through the Scriptures. Open our

eyes to see Jesus in into the Bible. I praintimately. Thank	ay that our grow	vth in You will	lead others to ki	now You more	deeper

Day 2: Jesus: The Fulfilment of the Law

"For if you believed and relied on [the Scriptures written by] Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me [personally]." John 5:46 (AMP)

Jesus affirms that Moses wrote about Him, pointing to the unity of Scripture in testifying about Jesus. The writings of Moses—the law, the history, and the prophecies—are all part of God's plan of redemption that finds its fulfillment in Christ. This unity strengthens my appreciation for both the Old and New Testaments, revealing a continuous thread of God's salvation plan.

Journal Prompts:

1. How does understanding that Moses wrote about Jesus enhance my appreciation of the Old Testament?

Prayer Point: Heavenly Father thank You for the consistent message of Your Word

2. What does this verse teach me about the unity of Jesus throughout the whole Bible?

that points to Jesus. Help us study Your Scriptures, understand the deep connection between the Old and New Testaments, and trust in Your perfect plan of redemption In Jesus' name, Amen.	S
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Day 3: The Promise of Redemption

"And I will put enmity (open hostility) between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15 (AMP)

This prophecy in Genesis is the first promise of Jesus, the "seed of the woman," who would defeat sin and Satan. Jesus' victory over evil is foretold in this verse, where He ultimately crushes the enemy's power. Reflecting on this promise, I find hope in knowing that through Jesus' death and resurrection, the enemy is defeated, and eternal victory is secured for all believers.

Prayer Point: Heavenly Father, we praise You for Your promise of victory over

- 1. How does this verse give me hope in Jesus' ultimate victory over evil?
- 2. In what ways can I live in the assurance of that victory today?

power and bring eternal hope. Strengthen our faith in Your promises, and help us walk in the victory over sin that You have already given. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: Jesus: The Promised King

"The scepter [of royalty] shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh [the Messiah, the Peaceful One] comes, And to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples." Gen 49:10 (AMP)

Jacob's prophecy foretells the coming of Jesus as the King from the tribe of Judah, a King who will rule over all nations. Jesus' sovereignty is evident in this promise, and it calls me to honor and submit to His rule in my own life. Reflecting on this prophecy, I am reminded of Jesus' authority and the importance of recognizing Him as my sovereign King.

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, You are the promised King from the tribe of Judah.

- 1. Do I submit and honor Jesus' kingship in my life daily?
- 2. How can I more fully surrender to His authority today?

We worship You as the sovereign ruler of our lives. Help us to live in obedience to Your will, and teach us to follow You as our King in all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: Jesus: Leader of Justice and Truth

"Then a Shoot (the Messiah) will spring from the stock of Jesse [David's father], And a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and strength, The Spirit of knowledge and of the [reverential and obedient] fear of the LORD... And He will delight in the fear of the LORD..." Isaiah 11:1-5 (AMP)

Isaiah describes Jesus as the righteous Branch from Jesse, filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and justice. This passage speaks of Jesus' perfect leadership, His righteousness, and His commitment to justice for the oppressed. Reflecting on this prophecy, I am reminded that Jesus is the perfect ruler, full of wisdom, strength, and compassion.

Journal Prompts:

- 1. How does this description of Jesus give me confidence in His leadership and justice?
- 2. How can I reflect His righteousness and faithfulness in my life today?

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, teach us to live in righteousness and reflect Your

faithfulness in all we do. Give us the Spirit of wisdom and understanding so we can represent You in every area of our lives. Help us to be obedient to all that You ask us to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.	

Day 6: The Birthplace of Hope

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah; From you One shall come forth for Me [who is] to be Ruler in Israel, His goings forth (appearances) are from long ago, From ancient days." Micah 5:2 (AMP)

Micah's prophecy highlights Jesus as the eternal ruler who was to come from Bethlehem, a small and humble town. This passage emphasizes that Jesus' kingship was foreordained before time. Reflecting on this, I am in awe of how God orchestrated every detail of history to fulfill His promise of a Savior.

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness in fulfilling the

- 1. Do I truly trust God to fulfill His promises in my life?
- 2. How can I more deeply trust in His perfect timing and plan?

prophecy of Your birth in Bethlehem as our eternal King. Help us to trust in Your perfect plan and timing, knowing that You work all things for Your glory. Give us the patience to trust in You, even when we cannot see the full picture. In Jesus' name, Amen.	

Day 7: The Suffering Servant Who Bore Our Pain

"He was despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and pain and acquainted with grief; And like One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or esteem Him. But [in fact] He has borne our griefs, And He has carried our sorrows and pains; Yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken, Struck down by God and degraded and humiliated [by Him]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; The punishment [required] for our well-being fell on Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed." Isaiah 53:3-5 (AMP)

Isaiah's prophecy vividly portrays the suffering of Jesus, the Messiah. His rejection, pain, and sacrifice were all part of God's plan to bring salvation. Reflecting on this, I'm reminded of the depth of His love, which endured the weight of our sins to bring us healing. This sacrifice is a profound display of selfless love.

- 1. How can I be grateful for His sacrifice and share that love with others?
- 2. In what ways can I reflect His love and healing in my relationships?

Prayer Point: Lord Jesus, we are humbled by Your love and sacrifice for me.
Thank You for bearing our sins and offering us peace and healing through
Your blood. Help us to live in gratitude, reflecting Your love in our lives and extending the grace that we have received to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 4: Jesus, the Hope of His Coming

In the 4th week, our focus is on Jesus, the Hope of His Coming. Long before Jesus was born, God spoke through the prophets to reveal His plan for the Messiah. These prophecies were filled with hope and pointed to the coming of a Savior who would bring redemption, peace, and justice. Through these promises, God's people were reminded that He was faithful and that His plan for salvation would be fulfilled in His perfect timing.

This week's devotion will help us:

1. Understand the Fulfillment of God's Promises

We'll explore how the prophecies about Jesus' coming gave hope to generations and how their fulfillment shows God's faithfulness to His Word.

2. Live with Expectation and Hope in Christ

By reflecting on the prophecies of Jesus' first coming, we'll be inspired to live with the same hope and anticipation for His promised return, trusting in His power to transform our lives and the world.

a Savior who has already fulfilled God's promises, but as the King who will one day return to restore all things. Together, let's live with faith, hope, and confidence in the truth of His Word and the promise of His return.					

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Day 1: The Promise of Hope

"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

Hope is the expectation and desire for something to happen. This verse reminds us that God has always had a plan for us, from the very beginning. As we anticipate the fulfillment of His Word, we can be assured that He is always with us, guiding us. Reflecting on this, we are encouraged to place my trust in God's promises for my life.

Prayer Point: Lord, we love You, and we thank You for thinking of us even before we existed. If we have lost hope in You, guide us through this discovery. Deepen our relationship with You. Lord, and help us cultivate humility and gratitude. In times of

- 1. What do you expect God to do in your life?
- 2. What is a verse that reminds you of the promises of God? Please explain.

despair, we will not waver because we know You are with us. In Jesus' nan	ne, Amen.

Day 2: The Prince of Peace

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7 (KJV)

This passage reminds us of the gift of grace that was given to us in Jesus. He is not only our Savior but our ruler, our counselor, and our peace. Reflecting on His role in our lives, were reminded to surrender all aspects of our lives to Him, trusting in His leadership and peace.

Prayer Point: God, thank You not only for what You have done but for what

- 1. What areas in your life have you not fully given to God? Why?
- 2. Where do you desire peace in your life?

You are doing in our lives. Help us let go of our insecurities and trust You fully. We want to continue pursuing You relentlessly, knowing that Your will is best for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.	

Day 3: Responding with Humility in the Face of Suffering

"He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; He never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, He never said a word." Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)

This verse challenges us to consider how we respond to criticism and hardship. Jesus' response to suffering was humility and silence. It's a reminder that not every situation requires a response, and sometimes, choosing to listen and trust God is the best approach.

Journal Prompt:

1. Have you ever experienced a time when you were right, yet your response was wrong? How can you improve?

Prayer Point: Lord, thank You for this time with You. Help us to listen and

2. How do you define humility?

trust You more. Guide us in our relationships and interactions, and let the words from our mouths reflect You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: The Suffering Savior

"But because of our sins He was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole by the blows He received."

Isaiah 53:5 (GNTD)

Jesus' sacrifice for us was a complete act of love and surrender. He willingly bore our sins and took on the suffering that we deserved so that we could be healed and made whole. This not only highlights His love but also calls us to reflect on our own role in suffering as followers of Christ. The Bible teaches that suffering is part of the Christian life. Just as Jesus suffered for us, we are called to share in His sufferings, bearing our crosses daily as we live in obedience and surrender to God's will.

Reflecting on His sacrifice challenges us to consider how we can live in a way that mirrors His selflessness. Are we willing to endure hardship for the sake of righteousness, or to surrender our comforts for the sake of His kingdom?

- 1. What does sacrifice look like in your life?
- 2. What areas of your life are you willing to surrender to God even if it involves discomfort or suffering?

Prayer Point: God, We are concerned about every aspect of our lives. Help us to trust You with every decision we make and to reflect Your love and sacrifice daily. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: Embracing Purpose Through Suffering

"The Lord says, 'It was My will that He should suffer; His death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so He will see His descendants; He will live a long life, and through Him My purpose will succeed." Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV)

Jesus knew His purpose and willingly embraced His suffering for the greater good. Reflecting on His clarity and commitment to His assignment, I am reminded to focus on my own purpose, trusting that God has a plan for my life.

Journal Prompt:

- 1. When was the last time you sat in silence and meditated on God's will for your life?
- 2. Have you ever written down what God has spoken to you and begun to follow the directions He has given?

We

Prayer Point: God, thank You for sending Your Son to fulfill Your will. Help us to silence the noise in our lives and to focus on Your voice and purpose. W					
desire to know You more intimately, Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.					

Day 6: The Role of the Intercessor

"Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV)

Jesus is the ultimate intercessor, praying for us even as He endured suffering. As we think about His role as our intercessor, we are reminded of my responsibility to intercede for others in prayer.

Journal Prompt:

- 1. Who are five people you will intercede for over the next month?
- 2. What specific prayers will you lift up for these five people, and how will you follow up to encourage or support them during the month?

Prayer Point: Lord, we pray for our neighbors, friends, and family. Guide them,

and reveal Your purpose in their lives. Grant them peace, and help them to seek You. In Jesus' name, Amen.					
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Day 7: Living in Expectation of His Return

"Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him."

Isaiah 62:11 (KJV)

This verse reminds us that Jesus will return, and we must live with urgency, preparing for His coming. His reward is with Him, and He calls us to serve and witness while we await His return.

- 1. Do you serve in your community?
- 2. Do you bring others to serve with you?

Prayer Point: Thank You, God, for sending Your Son Jesus to save us. Revivour hearts with compassion for others. Help us to serve You faithfully and bring others into the work of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.						

APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY

Christian Education Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship & Youth Worship 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study & Youth Bible Study 7:00 PM

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